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MAD's Dave Berg LOOKS AT OUR SICK WORLD

OUR SICK WORLD
IS A JIGSAW PUZZLE

WITH THE ESSENTIAL
PEACE
MISSING

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MAD's DAVE BERG LOOKS AT OUR SICK WORLD

Written and Drawn by Dave Berg
Edited by Albert B. Feldstein

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IT'S A SHAME FOR THE NEIGHBORS IN OUR SICK WORLD

NAMES PEOPLE PLAY

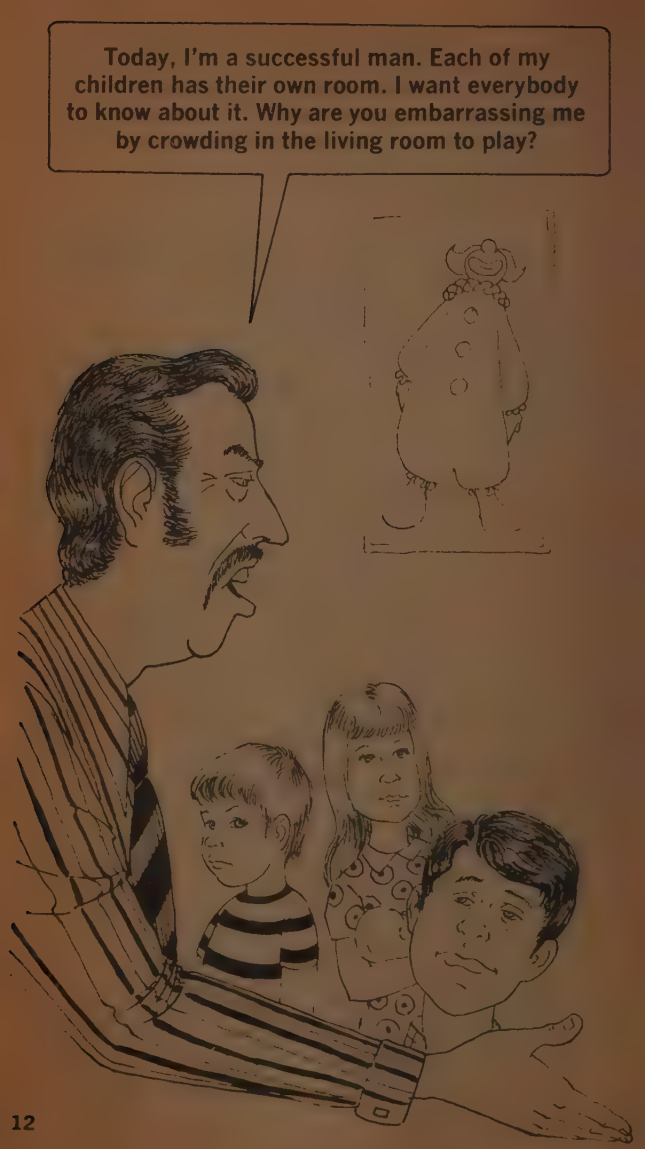
Ha! Ha! Sticks and stones can break my bones, but names will never hurt me. So there!

Sob!
What are you crying about? Did somebody hurt you?

Anthony did. He called me a name!

ROOM AND GLOOM

When I was a kid, I had to share a room with two other brothers. I never had privacy. I always felt crowded.

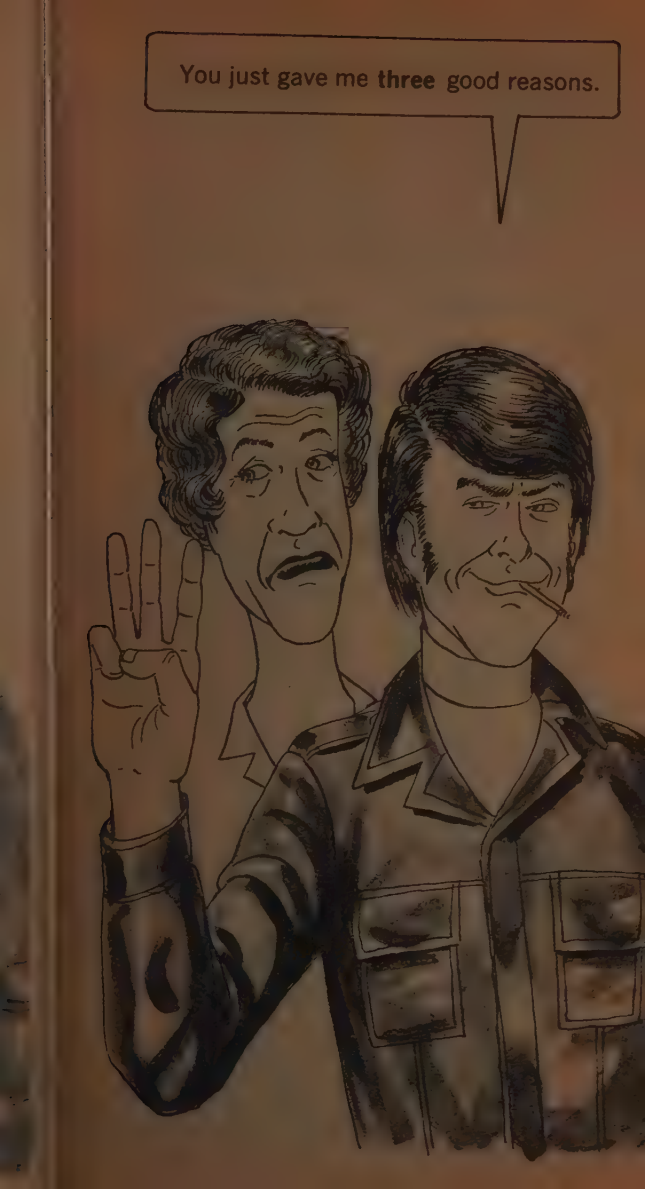

Today, I'm a successful man. Each of my children has their own room. I want everybody to know about it. Why are you embarrassing me by crowding in the living room to play?

We're lonely.

THREE'S A CROWD

First, with them it's cars, cars, cars and drag racing. **Secondly,** they go around looking and talking tough and trying to pick fights.

Thirdly, they're always girl chasing.


You just gave me **three** good reasons.

CAR BERATOR

I don't want the others to see me driven to the dance by my father like a little boy. All the other boys have **their** own cars, except me.

Here you are, a block away from the dance hall.

Hi, Mitch.
Darn the luck. The girls saw me. I'd better think of something quick.

Listen, dad, if you don't have the car back by eleven o'clock, I'll never loan you MY car again.

BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER

Here, Marvin McGilla wants to talk to you.
Did you have to tell him I'm home? I hate talking to him.
2
Why?
He's got BAD BREATH.
3

ACTING HER RAGE

1

Oooooooh!
2

Oh my gosh! What have I done? Harold, speak to me. I love you Harold, do you hear me? I love you!
3
See, you just admitted it.
You were faking all the time. Do you know what you can do?
4

DROP DEAD!!
5

CHIP OFF THE OL' BLOCKHEAD

I told you again and again, when you're out for the day to keep in touch with me by phone, otherwise I sit around here and worry.
It's not my fault if you're stupid enough to sit around and worry about nothing.
1
When YOU grow up, you should only have children just like YOU.
2

Oh, my goodness, I shouldn't have said that.
So what if you did. Sooner or later every parent says it to her child.

3

That's the trouble. When I was a kid, my mother said it to me, and that's exactly what happened.

4

THE HARM IN CHARM

When you say "**nothing**" it means something.
Well, if you must know, I was voted the **most popular** girl in the school.

That's marvelous! Now you know what it means to be mass loved. Imagine my little daughter is the most popular girl in the whole school.
WAS!

Now every other **girl** in the school **HATES ME.**

HIT THE MISS

old it there, son, that's your own little sister., Don't you **love** her?
No, **I hate her.** She's always taking my things.
But boys don't hit girls. It's against the laws of hivalry. You never saw me hit your mother no matter how much she bugs me.
The laws of chivalry change when it's your **pesty sister.**

I'll make a deal with you. If you ever see me **hit your mother** then **you hit your sister.** Okay?

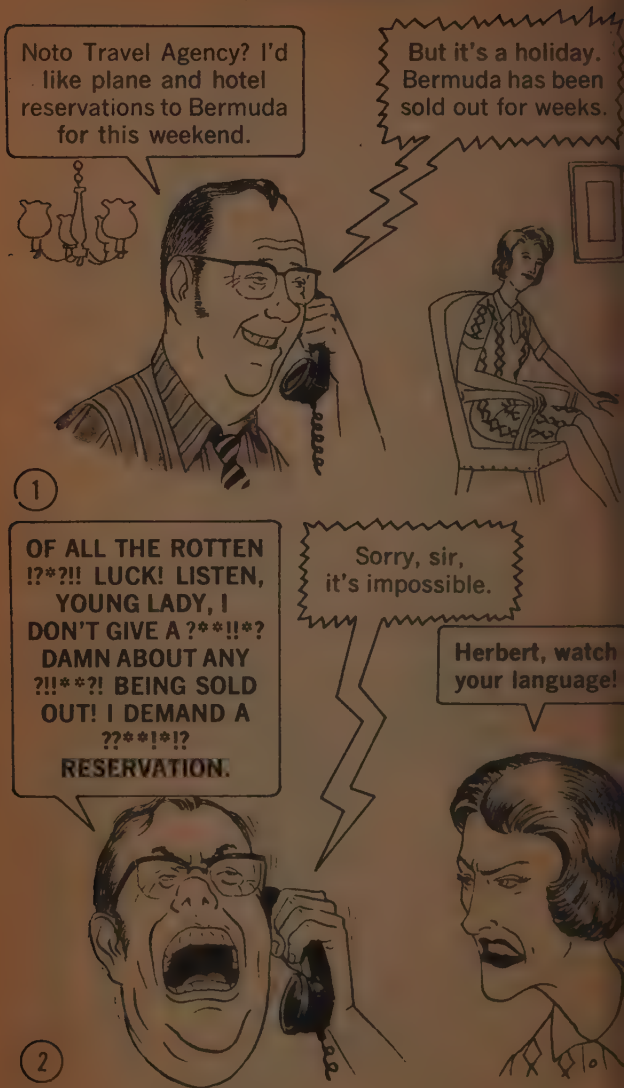
4

Okay! I **love** my mother very much. But I **hate** my sister **more.**

5

So couldn't you give mom just one little **rap in the mouth?**
6

COTTON MOUTH


Noto Travel Agency? I'd like plane and hotel reservations to Bermuda for this weekend.
But it's a holiday. Bermuda has been sold out for weeks.
1
OF ALL THE ROTTEN !?*?!! LUCK! LISTEN, YOUNG LADY, I DON'T GIVE A ?**!!*? DAMN ABOUT ANY ?!!**?! BEING SOLD OUT! I DEMAND A ??*!*!? RESERVATION.
Sorry, sir, it's impossible.
Herbert, watch your language!
2

LISTEN, YOUNG LADY, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?
No, sir.
3
Thank goodness.
4

YAAAH! I THINK I'M GETTING BALD!!
Oh, you're always finding something to worry about.
1

Look at it this way. They say that balding shows that you're very intelligent because grass doesn't grow on busy streets. Also they say that balding is a sign of virility.
No, kidding? Hey, how about that. I'm brilliant and sexy.
2

Oh-Oh!
What are you worrying about now?
3
What if I'm **not** getting bald?
4

TOO MUCH TO STOMACH

Look, he didn't eat a thing. All he did was move the food around on his plate. He didn't have any breakfast or lunch, either. I don't know how he exists.

1

He's got me worried sick. Look at him, skin and bones. I've got to take him to a doctor or else someone will have to take me to a doctor for my nerves.

2

Everybody tells me I'm a great cook. I buy just for him the best cuts of meat. I look for the most interesting recipes. I sweat over a hot stove for hours. And what does he eat? NOTHING!
3
If it wasn't for the pizza pies, hamburgers, hot dogs, fruit and cake he eats between meals, he'd starve altogether!
4

Mom, why is it that everything that's pleasurable is either illegal, fattening or immoral?
Oh, my gosh, what did you do?

Oh, mom, stop making a whole thing out of it. I feel guilty enough.
GUILTY? Oh no! that I should live to see this day. Our family's good name ruined. We'll have to move to another town—another state.

Look, I'm only human. I lost my head. I gave way to temptation.
I'm dying right here on this spot. So tell me already, what did you do?

3

I ate a banana split! What's all the fuss?

4

THESE ARE THE GOOD OLD DAYS IN OUR SICK WORLD

SURE CURE

D-Daddy,—sob—I—
I hurt my finger—sob.
You poor thing.
You'd better come into the examining room.
EXAMI
ROOM

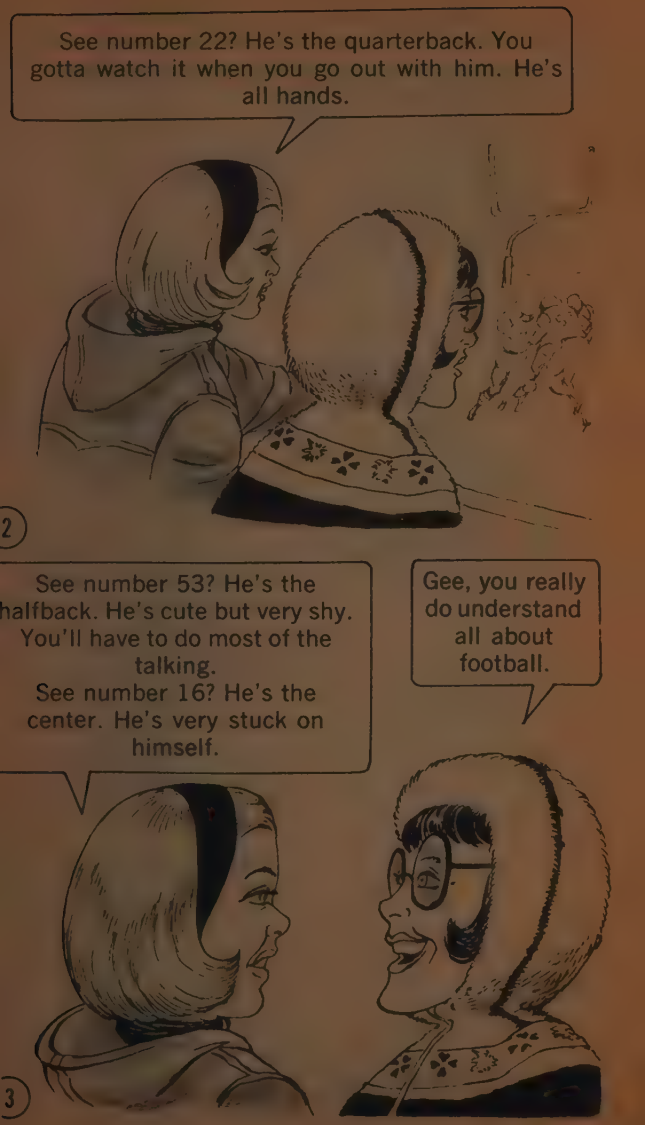
Sob.
After all, your Daddy is a doctor. I had four years of pre-med, four years of medical school, two years of interning, two years of residency.

Sob.
And I've been in practice for ten years so I know just how to cure your finger.

SMACK

OFF SIGHED

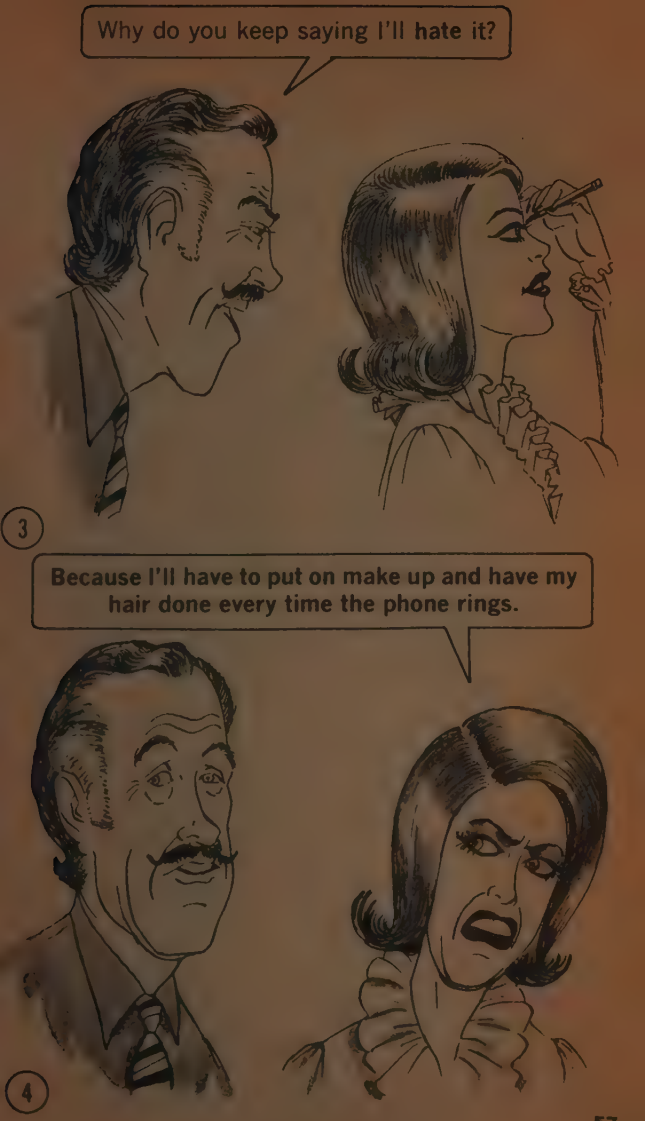
I don't understand anything about football.
I do. Let me explain it to you.


See number 22? He's the quarterback. You gotta watch it when you go out with him. He's all hands.
2
See number 53? He's the halfback. He's cute but very shy. You'll have to do most of the talking.
See number 16? He's the center. He's very stuck on himself.
Gee, you really do understand all about football.
3

EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

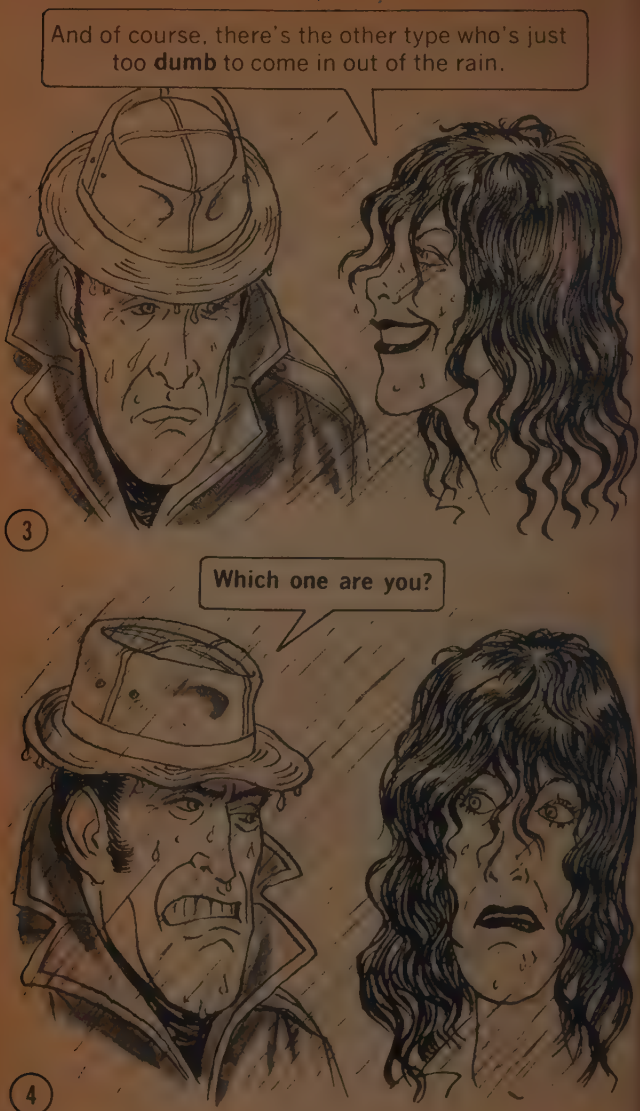
I'm content in my job. I'm financially secure. My health is generally good. I have a satisfying sex life. I feel everybody loves me. I have peace of mind. Generally speaking, I'm a happy man.
See. I told you—YOU'RE abnormal.

A SIGHT FOR SORE EARS


Why do you keep saying I'll **hate** it?
3
Because I'll have to put on make up and have my hair done every time the phone rings.
4

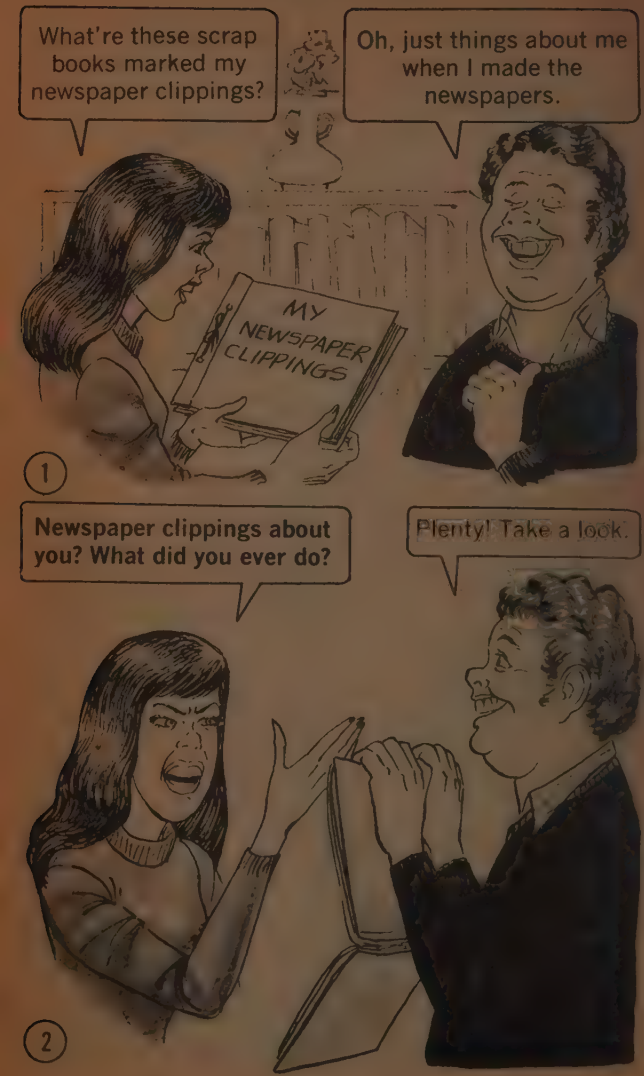
WATERED DOWN VERSION

There are two types that like this sort of thing. There is the sensitive creative sort who loves the feel of the rain on the face, like it was a washing away of all negative thoughts. Splashing through the puddles gives one a feeling that they are a giant crossing mighty oceans in one step.


And of course, there's the other type who's just too **dumb** to come in out of the rain.
3
Which one are you?
4

THE EGO BEAVERS IN OUR SICK WORLD

SCRAP HAPPY


What're these scrap books marked my newspaper clippings?
Oh, just things about me when I made the newspapers.
MY NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS
1
Newspaper clippings about you? What did you ever do?
Plenty! Take a look.
2

Heat wave drives thousands to beaches

50,000 watch parade

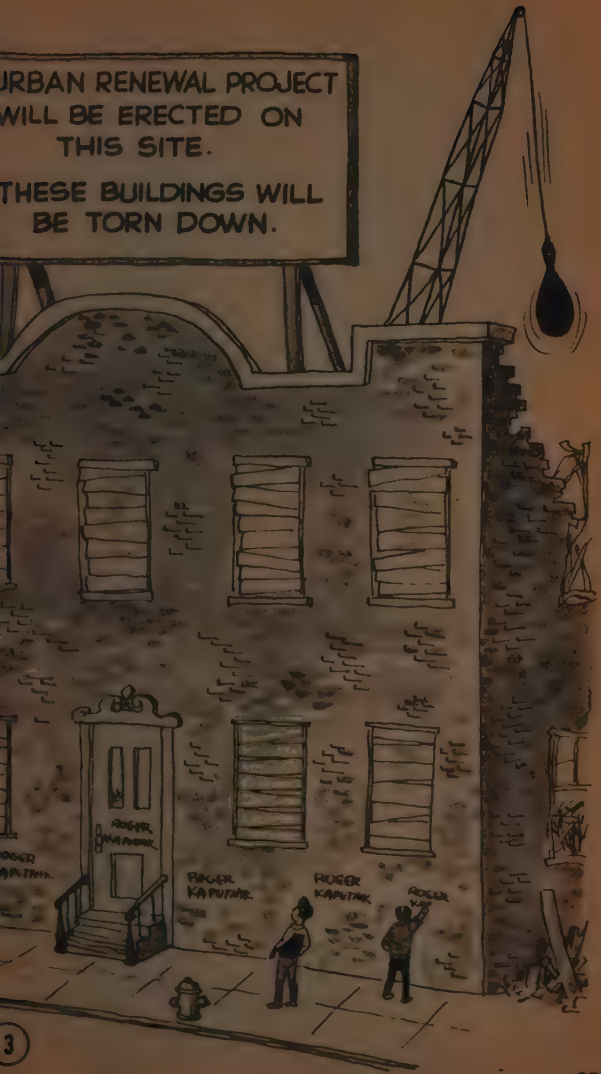
Unusual heavy holiday traffic jams highways

Census sets city population at 258,901

ME

A NAME TO DISMEMBER

ROGER KAPUTNIK
ROGER KAPUTNIK
Why are you always writing your name all over the place?
For **immortality!** So that long after I'm gone the world will know that once there was such a person as Roger Kaputnik.


URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT
WILL BE ERECTED ON
THIS SITE.
THESE BUILDINGS WILL
BE TORN DOWN.
ROGER KAPUTNIK
ROGER KAPUTNIK
ROGER KAPUTNIK
3

BUILDING A BETTER FLYTRAP

I spent all morning making this picnic lunch only to have these flies feast on it. **Beat it, you darn flies!**
1
Here come the McCluskis. They're having a picnic too.
Shoo fly! Shoo! Shoo!
2

Shoo fly!
At least the flies left our picnic to bother the McCluskis.
They have?
3
Why, is **her** cooking better than **mine**?
4

"I" STRAIN

There's that Bruce Shlep. I can't stand him. He's the biggest egomaniac in the world.
I don't think he's so bad.
1
But he only talks about himself. He's "me" deep in conversation. With him the "I"s always have it.
It could be worse.
2

Why are you defending him? He's always so busy talking about himself.
That makes him too busy to talk **against others.**
3

Hey, Pauline, you're a hep chick. I gotta hand in this composition for English. You tell me if it's any good.
Surely.

2

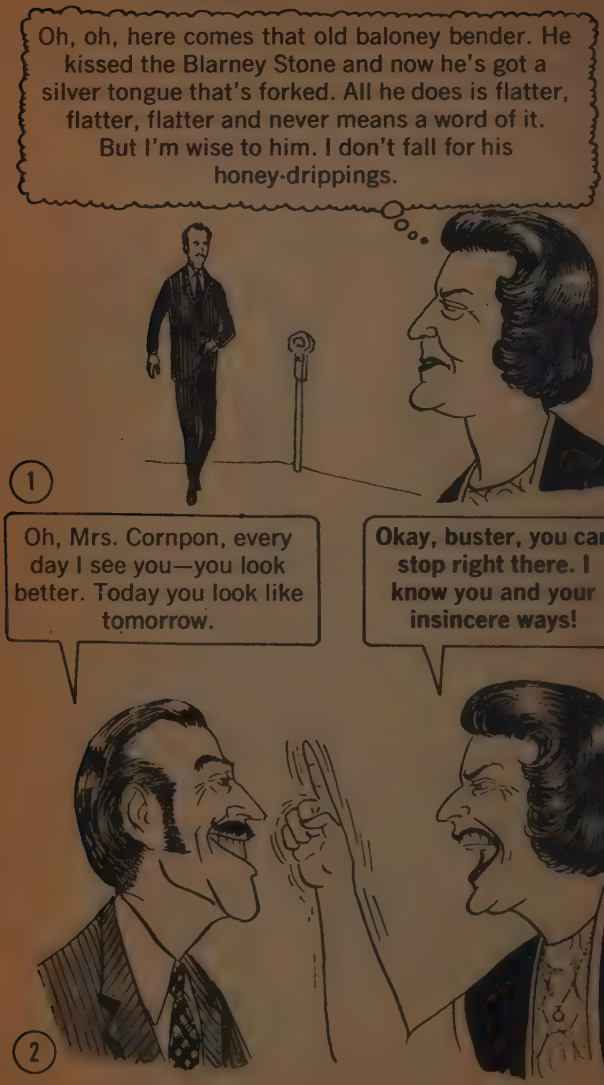
This is marvelous. You have a good opening sentence that grabs the reader right away. You develop your theme beautifully. And your closing paragraph sums up the entire idea simply and to the point.

3

You sure know how to **build up a guy's ego.**
His ego? **My** ego!

I couldn't read a word he wrote without my glasses. And I didn't want him to know I need them.
5

FROM MOUTH TO HAND


Oh, oh, here comes that old baloney bender. He kissed the Blarney Stone and now he's got a silver tongue that's forked. All he does is flatter, flatter, flatter and never means a word of it. But I'm wise to him. I don't fall for his honey-drippings.
1
Oh, Mrs. Cornpon, every day I see you—you look better. Today you look like tomorrow.
Okay, buster, you can stop right there. I know you and your insincere ways!
2

Even when you're annoyed and shake your finger at me, you're still charming. I see such **beautiful and graceful hands.**
DON'T GO AWAY MAD, YOU PHONY, JUST GO AWAY!
3
4

THE OLD GRAY MARE, SHE IS WHAT SHE USTA BE

I'm a reporter, sent here to do a human interest story on Mrs. Lena Comquat, who claims to be a **hundred** years old today.
She does? The phony!
1
Look here, young man, we were girls together. Lena is the vainest, most self-centered person I have ever known. She'll even lie for the sake of her vanity, and she'll do anything to call attention to herself.
2

You mean she's not a **hundred** years old.
Nowhere near it.
3
She's a **hundred and TWO!**
4

CHAMPION LOSER

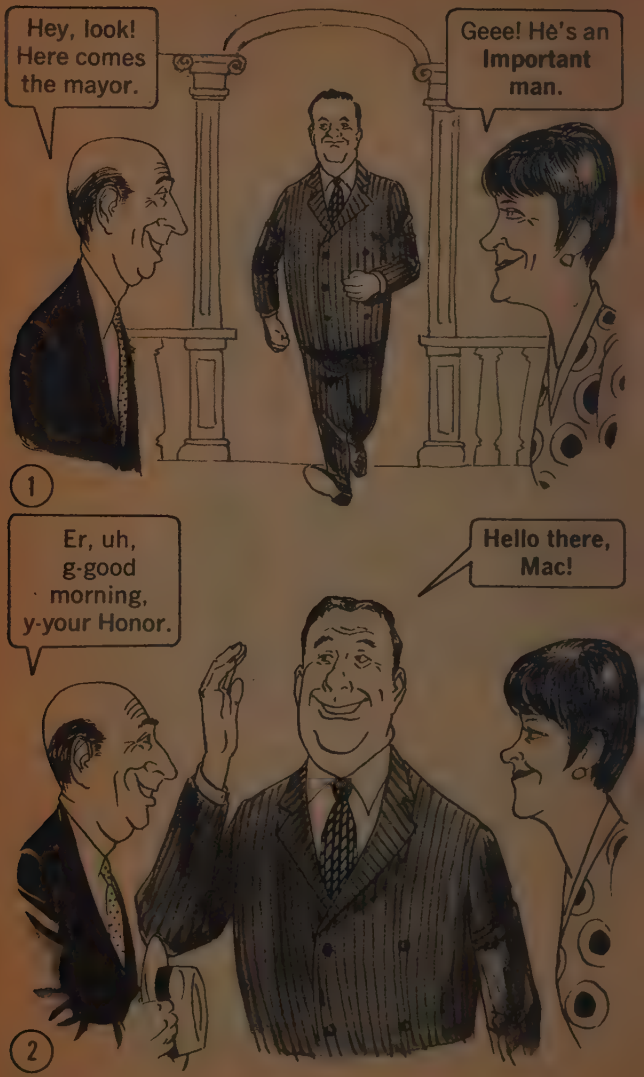
Mrs. Prattfall, it is my pleasure and honor to inform you that **you** have been chosen out of thousands of women as the **typical American housewife.**

You will appear on television and in newspapers all over the country, plus winning handsome gifts and a cruise for you and your husband to the Caribbean.
Thank you, but no thank you, I'm not interested.

YOU CRAZY OR SOMETHING? ALL THAT PUBLICITY WILL BUILD YOUR EGO SKY HIGH.
You mean crash it to the ground.

If there's anything a **typical** person hates, it's to be told that she's **TYPICAL.**

GREETER MEETER



Did you hear that? He called me by name. Maybe I'm not such a schnook. He actually said, **hello there, Mac.**
3
Good morning, your Honor.
Good morning, **Mac.**
How are you Mr. Mayor.
Fine, **Mac.**
4

SEEN BUT NOT HURT

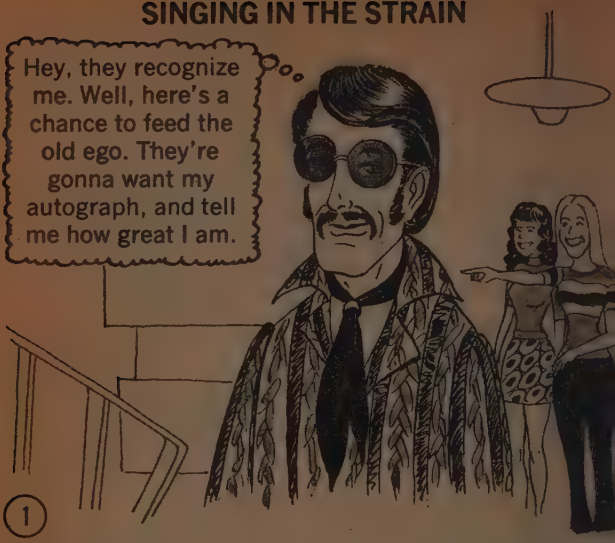
Oh, darn, there's a bunch of the fellas. When they see me they'll start whistling and howling like wolves. Sure, it's good for the feminine ego. . . .

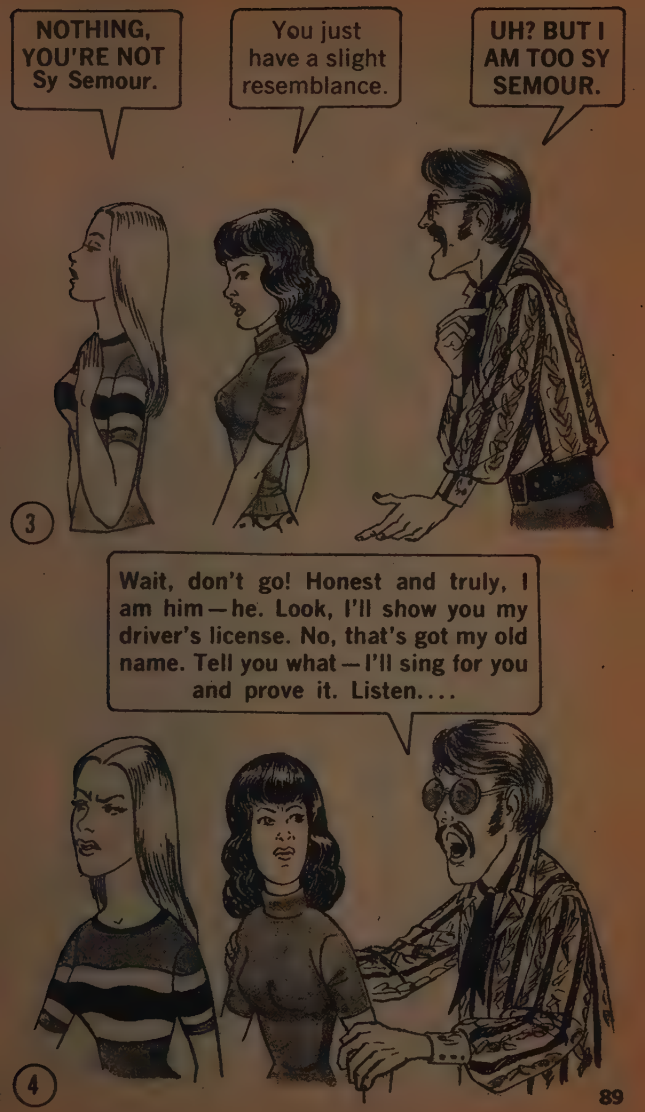
But there are times when I'd like them to leave me **alone.**
Like they are now.
Oooo

They are ?!
I must be slippin'.

Oh, hi there, fellas!

SINGING IN THE STRAIN




NOTHING, YOU'RE NOT Sy Semour.
You just have a slight resemblance.
UH? BUT I AM TOO SY SEMOUR.
3
Wait, don't go! Honest and truly, I am him—he. Look, I'll show you my driver's license. No, that's got my old name. Tell you what—I'll sing for you and prove it. Listen....
4

ROUND LIKE A CIR-CLE, IN A SPI-RAL, LIKE A WHEEL WITHIN A WHEEL.
You're not Sy Semour.
But you sing as bad as he does.

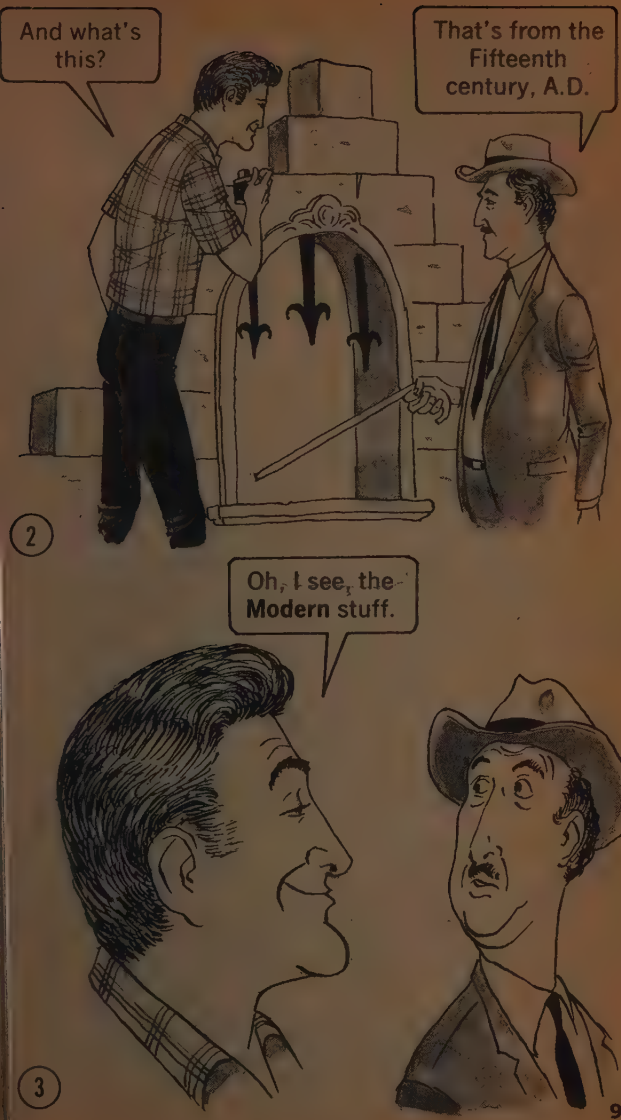
NOT SO INNOCENT ABROAD IN OUR SICK WORLD

WISE GUIDED

I don't know the customs of this country. I don't want to under-tip or over-tip. Perhaps you can help me.
It really doesn't matter.

If you're an **American,** whatever you'll **do**—
it'll be **wrong.**

Here we see ruins and relics from the Second and Third centuries, B.C.
1


And what's this?
That's from the Fifteenth century, A.D.
2
Oh, I see, the **Modern** stuff.
3

PLAYING THE FIELD

I told him there was **a heck of a lot more** to this world than **watching football.** So after much nagging I got him to take me on this **European trip.**

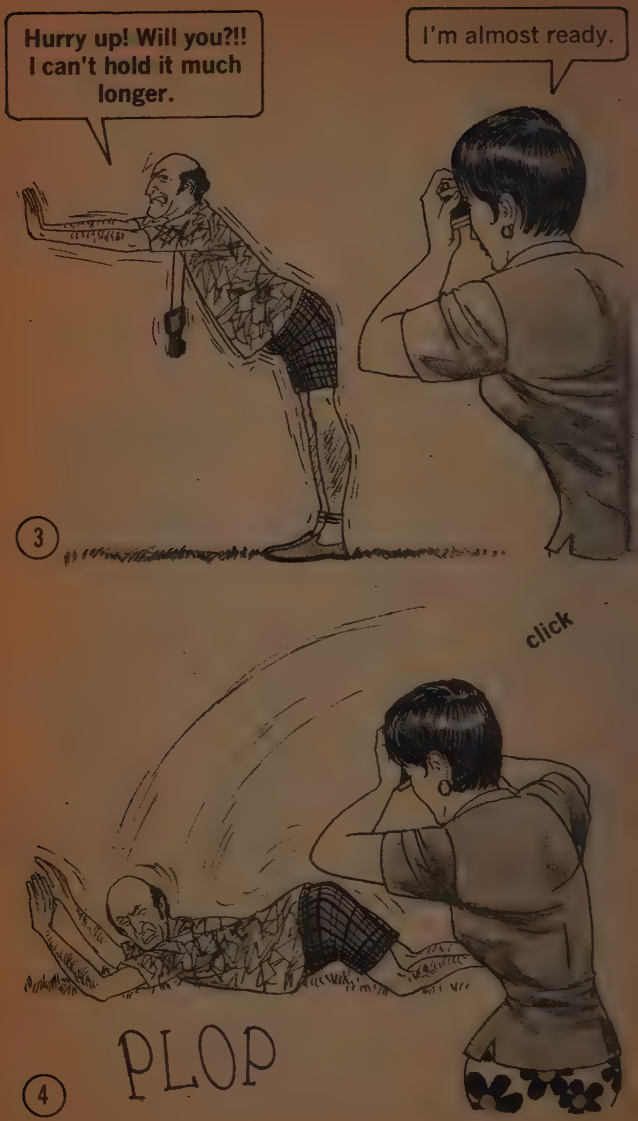
That's how come we're here at Westminster Abbey. You should have **seen his reaction** when he saw **this place!**
I can imagine! He must **have FLIPPED.**

Yes, right back to the hotel, where he's watching a RUGBY game on T.V.

HOLDING ACTION

Hey, I've got an original idea. You take a picture of me from this angle so it gives an optical illusion of me holding up the Leaning Tower of Pisa.
You call that original?
1

Okay, shoot.
Just a minute while I focus it.


Hurry up! Will you?!! I can't hold it much longer.
I'm almost ready.
3
click
PLOP
4

Now you shoot?
At least it's original.

TWO CAR BARRAGE

You own car? You must be RICH man.
No, I'm not rich. I'm middle class, and I don't own **one car.** I own **two.**

Two cars? Why you need two cars.
One for me and one for my wife.

What's da matter, you don't get along with wife?

THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR

Most of touring Europe consists of looking at one magnificent ornate house of worship after another.

You know something? I don't think God is dead.
2
HE JUST CAN'T AFFORD THE RENT.
3

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Who's a foreigner? You dare call me a foreigner? I'll have you know I was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in the U.S. of A. My ancestors arrived in America in 1705, and you call me a foreigner?
This is Europe. Here you're a foreigner.
2

THERE YOU GO CALLING ME A FOREIGNER AGAIN!
Please, Madam, lower your voice.

This is siesta. A traditional time for taking a nap.
Oh, I didn't know. You see. . . .
4
I'm a foreigner!
5

HIGH COST OF LOVING

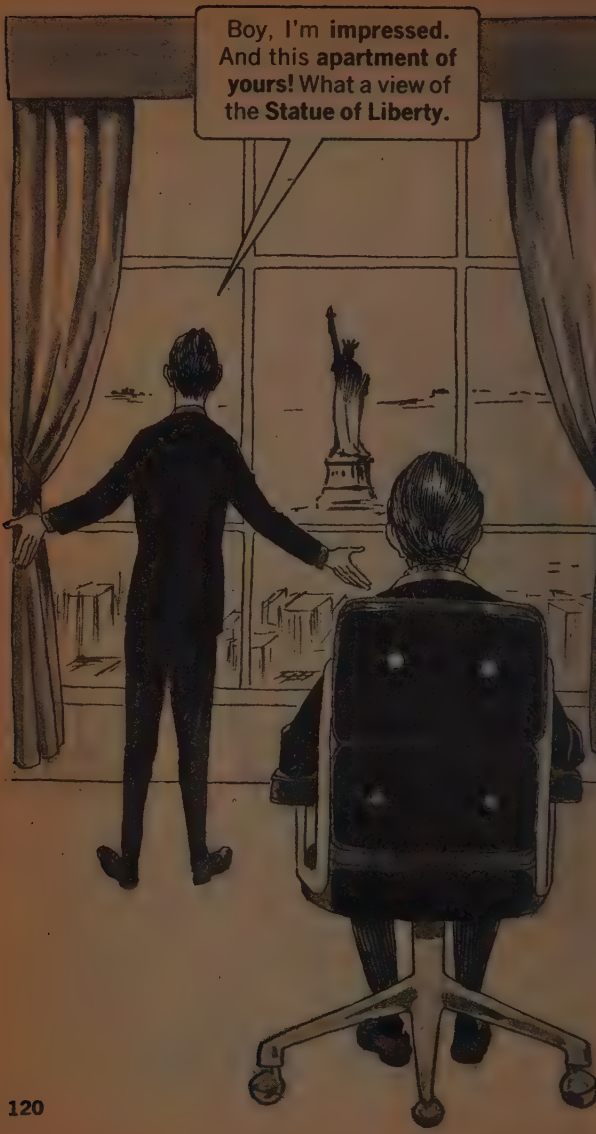
800 francs? Wow! What a buy. **Take it,** George, **I love it!**
Okay, I'll take it.

Oh, you love it? I'm afraid you didn't hear me correctly. I said 1,800 francs.

You hadda love it?

Wow! What a collection of **souvenirs** from all over.
You couldn't name a **place** in this world that I haven't **been.**

The **Palace of the Dalai Lama** in Tibet?
Been there. Also the **Taj Mahal** in India, **Victoria Falls** in Africa, the **Sphinx** in Egypt, the **Wailing Wall** in Jerusalem, the fantastic statues on **Easter Island,** and so on and so on.


Boy, I'm **impressed.** And this **apartment of yours!** What a view of the **Statue of Liberty.**

Oh my gosh! You just named the place.

SPOT REMOVER

What an overwhelming feeling of **history.** It gives me **chills.** It's like a **mystical experience.** As if **my soul** and **Charlemagne's soul** are **interlocked.**

It's like I'm on an **H. G. Wells time machine,** brought back to this spot in another era and little nobody me is conversing with a **giant in history,** the great **Charlemagne.**

By the way, **who's Charlemagne?**

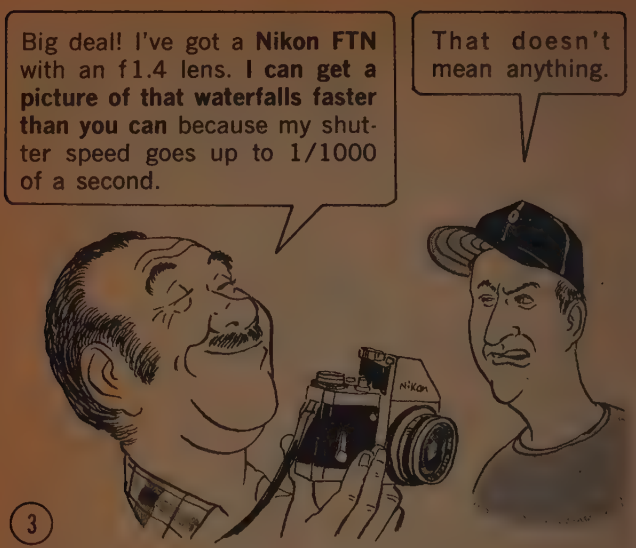
PINCH HITTER

Do you know what these horrible men **do** in this country? They go around **pinching women tourists** walking down the **streets.**
Look at it this way, dear. It's a compliment to your attractiveness if they pinch you.
2
That's the **trouble. Not one of them** even made the **slightest attempt** to pinch me.
3

PHOTO FINISH

We are about to pass one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the park. Those of you with cameras better get ready.
I'm ready.
TOUR
23
KD
86 551

SAY—What kind of a camera do you have?
It's a **Fujica.** 35 millimeter, compact deluxe, with a f1.8 lens with a new micro eye automatic exposure and a shutter speed up to 1/500 of a second.
2


Big deal! I've got a **Nikon FTN** with an f1.4 lens. **I can get a picture of that waterfalls faster than you can** because my shutter speed goes up to 1/1000 of a second.
That doesn't mean anything.
Nikon
3

It does, too!
Hey, Milton, you know about photography. Which of our cameras can take a faster picture of the waterfalls?
4

Neither! You just passed it!

HOME COOKING

LUIGI'S
AMERICAN BAR

HOT DOGS
HAMBURGERS
BANANA SPLITS

BARGAIN JARGON

Holy smokes! Here we are leaving Europe and I forgot to get my sister a gift. How about selling me that **bag?** It's beautiful.
Are you **kiddin'?** I went to a lot of **trouble** to get it. You know how these European shopkeepers are. I had to **haggle, bargain** and **argue** with the dealer before I got my **price.**

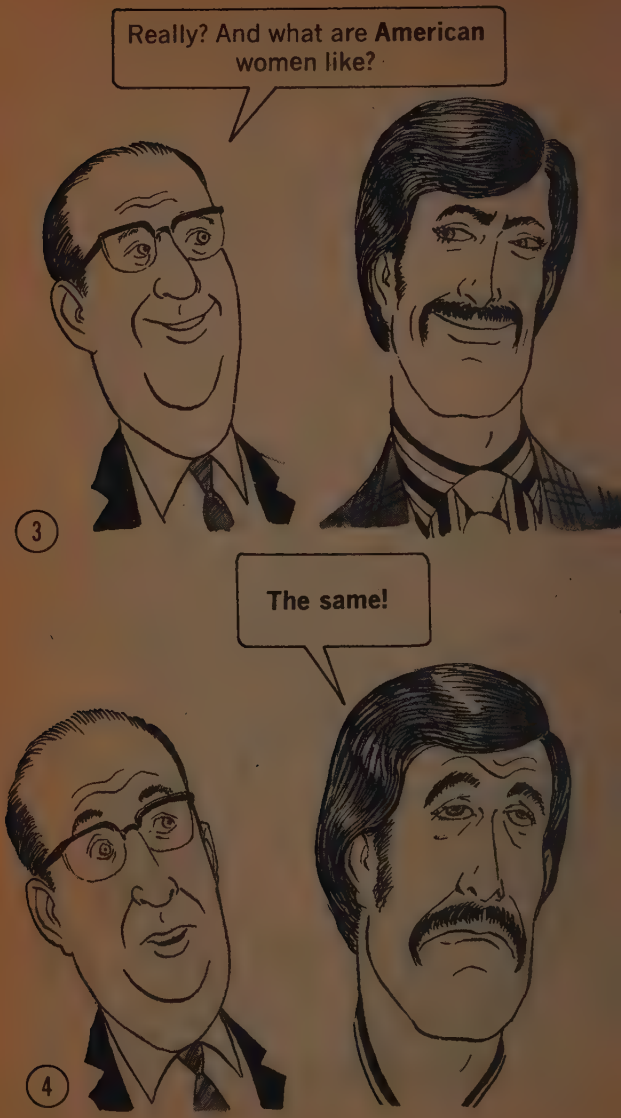
Look, I'm **desperate.** My sister would never **forgive** me. You **gotta** sell it to me. Price is **no object.**
Well, seeing you're in such a fix and since you and I were buddies on this trip, **it's a deal.**

You are a pal. How much?
I'll give it to you for what it cost me. I chiseled him down to ten dollars and fifty cents American money.

$10.50? Are you **nuts?**
Look at the **lousy workmanship.**
I'll give you **$8.75** and not a **penny more.**

THE MISS MESS

This much I can tell you about **all foreign women.** They are **over-emotional, irrational,** and guided by glandular functions that make them **impossible.**
2


Really? And what are **American** women like?
3
The same!
4

"WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY, AND THEY ARE US" IN OUR SICK WORLD

BARK! BARK! BARK! That's all that dog does all day. He's driving me out of my skull. I'd like to get some arsenic and poison that dog.
POISON THE DOG?
ARF
ARF
ARF

How **inhuman.** How **beastly!** A dog is one of **God's creations,** a thing of **beauty,** a friend to **Man,** and you want to **poison** him. You're out and out **vicious.**
ARF
ARF

I'm sorry, I forgot you're an animal lover. But that mutt is **still** annoying. What about the dog's **owner?** Why doesn't **he** shut him up?
I'D LIKE TO GET A GUN AND KILL THAT GUY!
ARF
ARF
ARF

That's better!

CAT CALLS

You're hardly in the door and already you're running to the phone?
I have to call **Naomi.**

NAOMI? You just this moment left her.
So what?

You've been with her at the dance all night. Yet everytime you leave her you immediately call each other up. Will you explain what else you've got to talk about?

About the **other girls** that were with us.

AS A MATER OF FACT

Why do you have the feeling that you know more than I do?
When you were young, there was no television. When I was young, you were so busy with your bridge games and stuff that you put me in front of the "electronic babysitter"—the television set—just to get me out of the way.

As a result, I became worldly, and sophisticated at a much earlier age. That's why there is such a generation gap between us.
I never realized that.

Sylvia! Is that all you're going to do all day and night? What do you think you're doing?

Closing the gap.

DECLARATION OF PEACE

As your guidance counselor, I'm pleased that you've at least shown some social and political consciousness. Because it certainly has not shown itself in your grades.

It's just that war makes history.

And history is my worst subject.

ONCE MORE WITH FEELING

I love you with all my heart.
How can you do that? It's just a stupid cliché. You don't love with your heart. A heart is only a muscle that pumps blood.

Er . . . then I love you with all my . . . what the heck do I love you with?
The mind stimulates the glands that secrete a fluid into the blood system.

Okay, then I love you with all my **glands.**
I don't like the way you said that.

What's the matter with the way I say it?
You didn't put your HEART in it.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE

Look at this. Kids are rioting, burning, hallucinating, immoral. **You kids are absolutely worthless.**
That's exactly what we are. You of the OPPRESSIVE ESTABLISHMENT made us feel **NOT NEEDED.** That's why we're doing what we're doing. If we're not going to feel **needed,** we sure the heck are going to make ourselves **NOTICED.**

We don't have to fight off Indians anymore. We seldom have to help out on the farm or in the family business. You don't need our earnings. We have no power. You of the **Oppressive Establishment** won't even give us **responsibilities.**

Oh, you want responsibilities? Okay, go clean up this mess you made in your room.

There you go being the Oppressive Establishment again.

CARD CARRIER

About twenty-five dollars.
For twenty-five dollars you make such a holler?

I also had my driver's license in there, and my social security card, my credit cards and my draft card.

Without my wallet, I CEASE TO EXIST!

DOPEY QUESTION

Do you of the establishment ever think about the poor starving children of the world, like we idealistic students do?
Yes, I think about them, and feel guilty. But **charity begins at home.**

You're demanding perfection from the establishment, when you idealistic students are just as imperfect as we are.
How are we idealistic students imperfect?

If you are such **idealists,** would you give up the **vast amount of money** you're spending on narcotics and give it to the **starving children** of the world **instead?**

Heck no! Charity begins at home.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY OUT

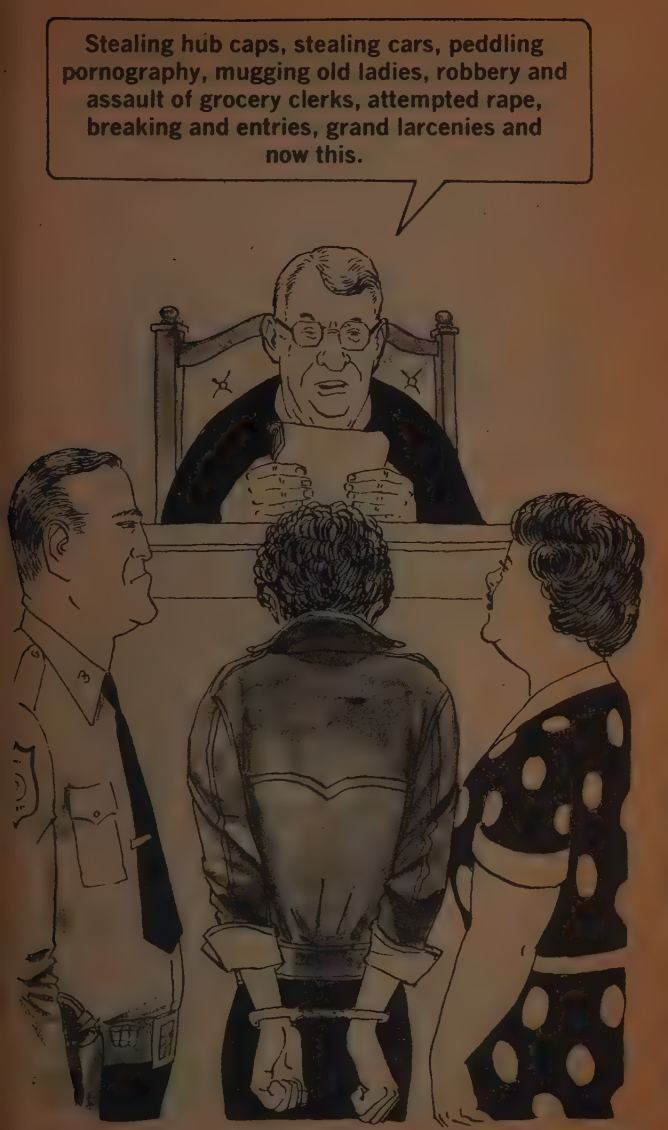
My son, in this competitive world of dog eat dog, you have chosen not to play the game, which makes you a truly meek man. As it is written, **YOU SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.**
Really? Me? The whole earth? I'M OVER-WHELMED. Let me see what it is I'm inheriting.

Of course, there is the possibility that we of this earth could choke ourselves with air and water pollution. Or we could smother ourselves with overpopulation.

There is also the possibility that we'll computerize ourselves to death by making of us all nothing but numbers. There is also the possibility that we could blow ourselves up.

About this inheritance, what can I do to be **disinherited?**

Gad! Look at the record this young punk's got. It's longer than an adult hardened criminal's!


Stealing hub caps, stealing cars, peddling pornography, mugging old ladies, robbery and assault of grocery clerks, attempted rape, breaking and entries, grand larcenies and now this.

Pushing heroin to the school kids! You're his mother, what have you got to say about this punk son of yours?

HE'S REALLY A GOOD BOY!

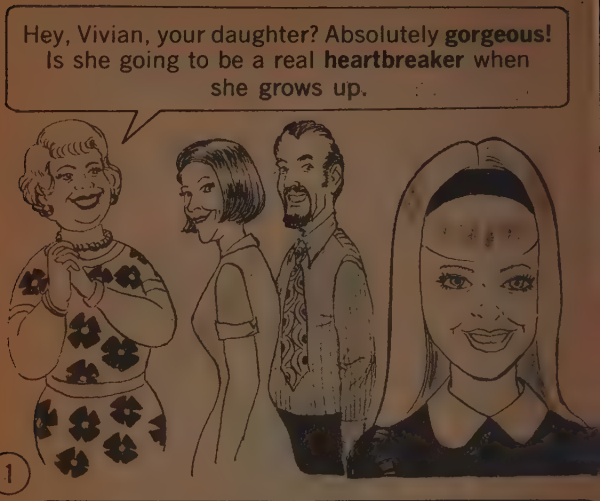
THE DEGENERATION GAP

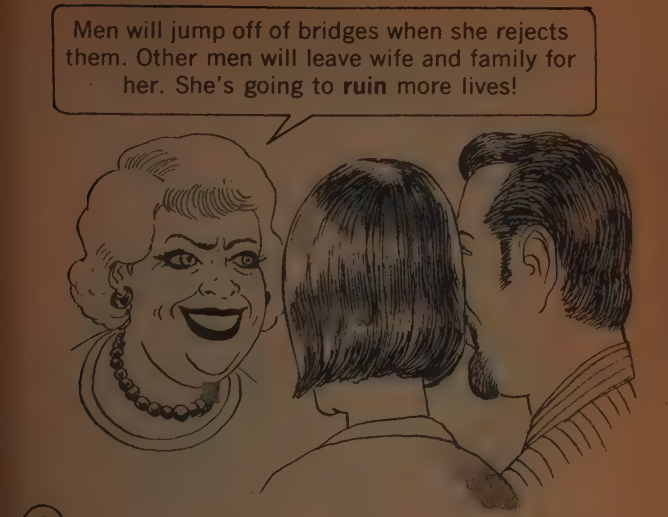
Who said it's **easy having it easy?** Being **over** privileged is an **under** privilege. Like Jefferson said: It's "The **PURSUIT** of happiness" that's happiness. Paradise achieved is a boring **Hell. Too much candy will make anybody sick.**

What **we kids** are going through is a **worse depression** than anything **you** knew!
YOU'RE a mean rotten kid. You just spoiled it for your father.

He'll never again be able to brag how tough he had it when he was a kid.

THE RIGHT TO BEAR CHARMS




Men will jump off of bridges when she rejects them. Other men will leave wife and family for her. She's going to **ruin** more lives!

3

Thank you for saying such **nice things** about my child.

4

WELL-ROUNDED SQUARES

Look at the principal of the school strut. He's a big wheel in the establishment. So that gives him status.
Oh, how I hate the establishment.

What are they of the establishment so smug about? Where would they be if it weren't for us teenagers? We set the clothing and hair-styles that the adults copy.

2

The record companies take a loss on classical music. But make it up on the records we kids buy. In fact, the whole economy would collapse if it weren't for the money we teenagers spend. That should give us some sort of status.

3

Oh my gosh! I just realized something horrible!

4

WE TEENAGERS ARE THE ESTABLISHMENT!

5

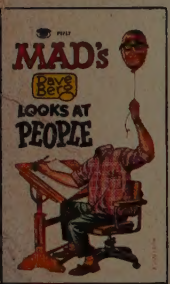
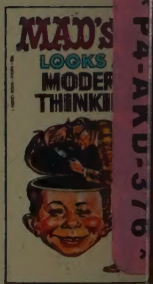
BABES IN ARMS

And what would you like for Christmas?
A machine gun, a six-shooter, a bomber...
SANTA
1
And peace on earth and good will to all men.
2

IN OUR SICK WORLD WE ARE ALL ROTTEN TO THE CORE...

David Berg

Who would know better about our sick world than a MAD man like Dave Berg

...WHO MAD[illegible] A LOT SICKER WITH[illegible]ER BOOKS

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